

Assemblyman  
**PAUL KORETZ**

**Forty-second Assembly District**

*proudly representing the communities of West Hollywood, Beverly Hills, Los Angeles, Century City, Westwood, Bel Air, Brentwood, West Los Angeles, Hollywood, Hancock Park, Universal City, Studio City, and Sherman Oaks*



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**KORETZ CALLS FOR END TO ARAB ECONOMIC BOYCOTT OF ISRAEL**

*Resolution urges President Bush and Governor Davis to enforce U.S. and CA anti-boycott legislation*

Sacramento, CA – Earlier this week, Assemblyman Paul Koretz (D-West Hollywood) introduced Assembly Joint Resolution 14 urging President Bush and Governor Davis to enforce current federal and state antiboycott legislation. More specifically, AJR 14 would condemn the Arab League's economic boycott of Israel and call on the Arab League and its members to disavow and end this boycott.

The Arab League's economic boycott of Israel, originally instituted in 1946, was waning in the 1980's and 1990's. However, in October 2002, delegates from 18 Arab/Middle Eastern countries met in the Syrian capital of Damascus and pledged to re-activate the boycott. The Arab boycott operates on three levels. The primary boycott prohibits Arabs from doing business with Israel; the secondary boycott blacklists companies doing business with Israel; the third level of the boycott blacklists companies doing business with companies targeted by the secondary boycott.

"I join with the American Jewish Congress and the Los Angeles chapter of Democrats for Israel in condemning the Arab League for their reactivation of this boycott," said Koretz. "Participation in the economic boycott calls into question the Arab commitment to the peaceful resolution of the Arab-Israeli decades-old conflict. It also damages Israel's economy, harms the peoples of the Arab countries by limiting their economic freedom, and potentially affects California's economy."

Both the federal and state government have taken steps to try to ensure non-compliance among our trading partners with the Arab economic boycott of Israel. The United States Export Administration Act of 1979 prohibited the participation in or compliance with the Arab Boycott. In California, state trust moneys may not be invested in business firms that comply with the boycott and no state moneys may be deposited with financial institutions that comply with the Arab economic boycott of Israel.

According to Assemblyman Koretz, "reactivation of the Arab boycott requires reinvigoration of anti-boycott enforcement. There is a huge outcry in the American Jewish community calling for legislation to prohibit compliance by American firms with the Arab boycott. Now, I am calling upon my colleagues in the legislature and the President of the United States to reassert their opposition to this devastating ploy by these Arab countries."